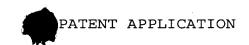# TRANSPORT NETWORK AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5   A transport network includes a flexible topology for internally defining transport elements. The transport elements each include a port group having a plurality of geographically distributed ports from the transport network. Point-to-multipoint connectivity is defined between the ports in a port group. An identifier

10   represents the port group as a single element to internal and/or external elements for protocol exchanges.